

Press release – final

Irish Life's investment manager comes out top in Europe winning two European Pension Awards after being named:-

**Equities Manager of the Year
and
Passive Manager of the Year**

3rd July 2014 – Irish Life announced today that its investment manager was named Equities Manager of the Year and Passive Manager of the Year at the European Pension Awards 2014. Irish Life Investment Managers was the only Irish investment company to be recognised in this year's awards and the only manager to win two awards in 2014.

These prestigious European awards, now in their 7th year, recognise outstanding achievement in the varied fields of European pension provision, honouring the investment firms, consultancies and pension providers across Europe that have set the professional standards in order to best serve European pension funds in these increasingly challenging times.

This year's awards received more entries than the previous six years. As with previous years the judges were drawn from across the European pensions sphere to include providers, pension funds, consultants and representatives from various European pensions and investment associations.

Commenting on the win, Patrick Burke, Managing Director of Irish Life Investment Managers said: "This is a great honour for our team and we are grateful to the European Pension Awards for this recognition. We believe these awards are testament to Irish Life's customer first focus and our ability to provide innovative solutions, which is core to our business."

"Our objective is to understand the evolving needs of our customers and to provide inspired investment solutions to our growing client base – solutions which will provide the opportunity for growth while employing strategies that deliver protection in times of market stress. Listening to our clients and developing solutions according to their wants and needs has been critical to achieving our objectives and continuing to grow our business – the strategies which were recognised with these awards form the foundation of the Irish Life MAPS range of funds and consequently we are very pleased that they have been recognised in this manner."

Irish Life Investment Managers came up against some of the leading global managers to be named equity manager of the year. The category recognises the manager who has led the way in managing equities in the past 12 months and has proved itself to be the most exceptional player in the industry and invaluable to European pension funds.

The passive manager award recognises the manager which demonstrates strong returns, provides excellent customer service and shows a true understanding of the needs of their clients.

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About Irish Life:

Established in 1939, Irish Life is Ireland's leading provider of life and pension services. Irish Life is part of the Great-West Lifeco group of companies, one of the world's leading life assurance organisations.

Great-West Lifeco was founded more than a century ago in Winnipeg, Canada and its subsidiaries, including The Great-West Life Assurance Company, have a record for financial strength, earnings stability and consistently high ratings from the independent rating agencies. The Great-West Life Assurance Company has an AA rating for insurer financial strength from Standard & Poor's.

Irish Life is committed to delivering innovative products backed by the highest standards of customer service. And as part of Great-West, we have access to experience and expertise on a global scale, allowing us to continuously enhance our leading range of products and services.

Irish Life Investment Managers manages money on behalf of a wide range of international and domestic institutional & retail clients including pension funds, charities and corporates. It is Ireland's largest fund manager with a 38% market share and AUM of €41.5bn.

Irish Life Assurance plc and Irish Life Investment Managers Limited are regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.